

Coffman Calls for Transparency in Final Health Bill Negotiations

Supports C-SPAN Request to Televisе Proceedings

(LONE TREE, CO) - Rep. Mike Coffman (R-Aurora) released the following statement today calling on Democrats to fulfill their pledge to make health care negotiations open to the public through media coverage. Coffman also denounced Democrat leaders for failing to commit to public conference committee proceedings, leaving the door open to conducting negotiations in secret:

“I am deeply disappointed, but not surprised, to hear that Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid may skip the formal conference committee process and reconcile the House and Senate health care bills in secret. The House and Senate bills were written behind closed doors and now Democrat leaders want to reconcile them in secret too. It is appalling that negotiations on a bill which will impact one-sixth of our nation’s economy, and every American, would be brokered behind closed doors rather than in the light of day.”

“Americans deserve better than to have the future of our health care system decided through backroom deals. More than a year ago President Obama promised health care conference proceedings would be televised on C-SPAN and transparent for all Americans. C-SPAN’s December 30th request to televise negotiations is the last opportunity for the President and Democrat leaders in Congress to fulfill their promise of transparency. I am a co-sponsor of H.Res. 847 which calls for all negotiations to be conducted in public and today I ask Democrats in leadership to honor C-SPAN’s request and televise the proceedings. The American people want openness and a government they can trust, not more broken promises and shady deals. ”